

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 297212

FOR EA ONLY, MANILA POUCH CEBU

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PINR, EAIR, PINS, SHUM, RP

SUBJECT: WEEKLY STATUS REPORT - PHILIPPINES

TO: EA - MR. HOLBROOKE

FROM: EA/PHL - BENJAMIN A. FLECK

1. ANTI-GOP TESTIMONY EXPECTED (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

STEVE PSINAKIS HAS SENT ME COPIES OF AFFIDAVITS WHICH HE AND FORMER PHILIPPINE SENATOR SERGIO OSMENA, JR., HAVE EXECUTED AND SENT TO THE MCGOVERN SUBCOMMITTEE WHICH PLANS TO INVESTIGATE ACTIVITIES OF FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES IN THE UNITED STATES. THE OSMENA AFFIDAVIT STATES THAT THE LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE MARCOS REGIME WHICH OSMENA SENT TO CONGRESSMAN FRASER IN 1975 WAS WRITTEN IN RESPONSE TO WHAT OSMENA BELIEVED TO BE A CONFIDENTIAL

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PROMISE BY MARCOS TO RELEASE OSMENA'S SON, SERGIO III, IN EXCHANGE FOR SUCH AN ENDORSEMENT. THE AFFIDAVIT CHARACTERIZES THE MARCOS PROPOSAL AS "POLITICAL BLACKMAIL OF THE HIGHEST ORDER" AND ENDS WITH THE FOLLOWING SENTENCE: "NOW THAT MY SON SERGE AND EUGENIO LOPEZ, JR., THROUGH AN ACT OF SHEER COURAGE AND BY THE GRACE OF THE ALMIGHTY, ARE FREE MEN IN THIS COUNTRY, I CAN NOW FREELY CONTRIBUTE TO

THE CAUSE OF RESTORING DEMOCRACY, CIVIL LIBERTIES, AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE PHILIPPINES". THE PSINAKIS AFFIDAVIT STATES THAT DURING THE PAST THREE YEARS HIS WIFE AND HE "HAVE BEEN SUBJECTED TO INTIMIDATION AND HARASSMENT IN THE FORM OF SURVEILLANCE, ATTEMPTED EXTORTION AND BRIBING, ATTEMPTED CHARACTER ASSASSINATION AND THREATS, INCLUDING DIRECT THREATS ON OUR LIVES". THE DOCUMENT GOES ON TO STATE THAT PSINAKIS AND WIFE HAVE A GREAT DEAL OF FIRST-HAND INFORMATION AND ARE PREPARED TO TESTIFY UNDER OATH. IT ENDS WITH A STATEMENT THAT KOKOY ROMUALDEZ IS "THE MOST PROMINENT PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT AGENT PARTICIPATING PERSONALLY IN THE EXTORTIONS AND THREATS MENTIONED ABOVE". COPIES ARE BEING POUCHED TO EMBASSY MANILA.

2. JAL REQUESTS LOPEZ/OSMENA DOCUMENTS (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

THE ATTORNEY FOR JAPAN AIR LINES, AGAINST WHOM THE CAB LEVIED A FINE OF DOLS 4000 FOR TRANSPORTING THE LOPEZ/OSMENA PARTY WITHOUT PROPER DOCUMENTS, HAS SUBMITTED A WRITTEN REQUEST FOR COPIES OF ALL DEPARTMENT DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE CASE. ORM IS PREPARING A REPLY DENYING THE REQUEST BECAUSE OF PRIVACY ACT CONSIDERATIONS.

3. SUPREME COURT TO ACT ON AQUINO MOTION
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THE PHILIPPINE SUPREME COURT HAS SCHEDULED A HEARING ON DECEMBER 14 ON A NUMBER OF PETITIONS RELATED TO THE AQUINO CASE, MOST OF WHICH WERE FILED BY AQUINO'S MOTHER. AQUINO IS EXPECTED TO ATTEND THE HEARING.

4. GOP AGREES THAT BILATERAL ECONOMIC TREATY IS NOT ESSENTIAL (CONFIDENTIAL)

AMBASSADOR NEWSOM'S RECENT ROTARY CLUB SPEECH, IN WHICH INTER ALIA HE CONCLUDED THAT THERE IS NO PRESSING NEED FOR A NEW ECONOMIC AGREEMENT, HAS BEEN FAVORABLY RECEIVED BY THE MANILA MEDIA AND GOP OFFICIALS. ECONOMIC PLANNING SECRETARY SICAT SAID IN AN INTERVIEW THAT "THE PHILIPPINES CAN CO-EXIST...WITH THE U.S. EVEN WITHOUT HAVING A TREATY OF TRADE". HE BELIEVED EXISTING TRADE PROBLEMS (AS THE AMBASSADOR HAD SUGGESTED) COULD BE SETTLED THROUGH THE MTN. SICAT ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT IN THE LONG RUN IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR BOTH COUNTRIES IF A BILATERAL ECONOMIC TREATY WERE CONCLUDED. BOARD OF INVESTMENT CHAIRMAN PATERNO, IN A SEPARATE INTERVIEW, CONCURRED IN THE AMBASSADOR'S OBSERVATION THAT A TREATY IS NOT URGENT.

IN THE MEANTIME, WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF OBTAINING

CLEARANCES FOR A TELEGRAM REACTING TO AMBASSADOR VEGA'S
SUDDEN CALL FOR RESUMPTION OF MTN AND BILATERAL ECONOMIC
NEGOTIATIONS IN GENEVA. WE ARE ASSUMING THAT VEGA'S
REAL INTENTION IS TO CONTINUE MTN TALKS -- RELATED TO
THE PHILIPPINES OBTAINING MORE FAVORABLE U.S. TARIFF
TREATMENT OF CERTAIN PRODUCTS INCLUDING COCONUT OIL IN
RETURN FOR PARTIAL RECIPROCITY -- AND NOT A REOPENING OF
BROAD TREATY NEGOTIATIONS. IF SO, WE WOULD BE PREPARED
TO RESUME SUCH DISCUSSIONS IN THE HOPE THAT THEY WOULD
LEAD TO SEPARATE SETTLEMENT OF THESE LONGSTANDING TRADE
ISSUES.

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5. PLEASE NOTE FOR EA ONLY CAPTION.

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